

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE MEMORIAL 127

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A WORKING  
GROUP TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS A NEED TO INCLUDE HEALTH  
EDUCATION AS A REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL.

WHEREAS, the genuine pursuit of excellence in education  
requires that school communities periodically examine and  
assess all aspects of their educational programs to identify  
ways in which existing policies, standards and competencies  
might be strengthened; and

WHEREAS, the public education department has established  
standards for excellence that set graduation expectations for  
public schools; and

WHEREAS, the standards for excellence establish the  
content standards with benchmarks in health education that are  
used by all public schools, charter schools and state-supported

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underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 educational institutions to develop, deliver and assess health  
2 education curricula; and

3 WHEREAS, the content standards with benchmarks for health  
4 education were adopted by rule in March 1997, and the  
5 benchmarks and performance standards were revised in June 2007;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, these content and performance standards are  
8 mandated for students in grades kindergarten through twelve;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, by law, all first, second and third grade classes  
11 are required to provide instruction in art, music and a  
12 language other than English, and instruction that meets content  
13 standards, benchmarks and performance standards in science,  
14 social studies, physical education and health education; and

15 WHEREAS, by law, all fourth and fifth grade classes are  
16 required to provide instruction in language arts, mathematics,  
17 science and social studies, including geography, and, as  
18 instructional time permits, to offer art, music, physical  
19 education, health and computer literacy; and

20 WHEREAS, by law, all seventh grade classes are required to  
21 provide instruction in English, with an emphasis on grammar and  
22 writing, communication skills or science, New Mexico history  
23 and geography, physical education and science; and

24 WHEREAS, the standards for excellence state that school  
25 health programs must provide opportunities for all students to

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1 develop healthy behaviors; and

2 WHEREAS, school districts are required to provide or make  
3 provisions for school health programs that address the health  
4 needs of students and staff; and

5 WHEREAS, school districts are required to provide health  
6 education, physical education, health services and school  
7 counseling, and may provide nutrition, staff wellness, family-  
8 school-community partnerships, healthy environments and  
9 psychological services; and

10 WHEREAS, the standards for excellence allow for the  
11 requirements for health education to be integrated into  
12 existing and related courses or to be taught as stand-alone  
13 courses;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public  
16 education department be requested to convene a working group to  
17 determine whether there is a need to include health education  
18 as a requirement for graduation from public school; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group include  
20 representation from the department of health, higher education  
21 institutions with health education teacher preparation  
22 programs, school superintendents, school health educators,  
23 school counselors, other educators and community organizations  
24 focused on school health issues and the legislative education  
25 study committee; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group consider  
2 creative alternatives for the delivery of health education  
3 content standards with benchmarks and performance standards;  
4 and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education  
6 department report the working group's findings and  
7 recommendations to the legislative education study committee by  
8 January 2010; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
10 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the secretary  
11 of health and the director of the legislative education study  
12 committee.